

STRINGS – INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM Information Package 2026

This document provides important details concerning the structure of the Instrumental Music Program at Peace Lutheran College. Please complete the enrolment contract attached.

Instruments:

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello

All Instrumental lessons will commence in Week 2 of Term 1 and will be 30 minutes in duration.

Students in Years 2 – 12 will be placed on a weekly rotating timetable and are required to be responsible and organised regarding checking times, attending their music lesson and arriving punctually. The weekly rotating timetable may take some time to adjust to, but it allows for no single school lesson to be missed consistently and results in a lesser impact on the student's academic learning.

Some fixed lessons are available, but these will be allocated at the discretion of the Instrumental Music Coordinator.

Students are required to bring their instruments with relevant books and musical equipment to school on their lesson day and store the instrument in the music room or inside their classroom to ensure its safety.

Instrumental Lesson Fees and Costs

Group lessons are **\$18 per ½ hour** and **Individual lessons** are **\$36 per ½ hour**.

College owned instruments are provided as an inexpensive way to find out if your child is going to enjoy playing a particular instrument and can be **hired** out at a cost of **\$50 per term**, also invoiced through school fees account.

Please note: You are required to complete a loan form before an instrument can go home and instrument loan periods are strictly for one year. After this, you will be required to purchase your own instrument so that younger children also have the opportunity to learn.

Lesson tuition and instrument hire fees are invoiced at the beginning of each Semester via the Peace Parent Portal.

If your child is a returning student and is needing to purchase an instrument for this year's program then there are many cost-efficient purchase options available, including renting from a music shop or buying second-hand, if you do not wish to buy brand new. If you experience any difficulties with sourcing an instrument, please speak to the Instrumental Music Coordinator for possible alternative options.

Parents/caregivers are also responsible for any additional equipment needed, e.g. tuition books, spare strings, rosin, chin rests, end pin floor stops etc. Advice on where to purchase these items is available, so please see your instrumental tutor for recommendations.

Ensemble Rehearsals

Students who reach/have reached an appropriate level of skill will be invited to attend string ensemble rehearsals.

Peace Lutheran College String Ensemble

Whilst we appreciate that the times may not always suit every family's routine, attendance is strongly encouraged, and we also encourage you to work with your family's community to look at options such as carpooling etc.

Other Information

If there are any changes to lesson times due to school events (e.g., Swimming Carnival, Cross Country etc., family or personal engagements), an email informing us of these changes is appreciated as rescheduling may be a possibility.

Similarly, an email informing us of any other absence due to illness or otherwise would be greatly appreciated to allow for possible rescheduling if availability permits.

In the rare event that the instrumental tutor requires a change to students' scheduled lesson times, students will be notified prior to their lesson, and every effort will be made to reschedule if possible.

If a student does not attend their lesson without prior notice to the instrumental tutor, parents will be notified. We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to remain committed to the program throughout the year.

Feedback on progress in lessons may be requested by families, and we will arrange for written feedback to be provided during reporting periods as well as parent/teacher interviews if requested.

Practice Guidelines

Regular practice is essential for your child's development on their instrument. Music has a steep learning curve at the beginning, and regular practice helps students to achieve success and maintain their interest in continuing.

Ideas for how to support your child with practicing is readily available, please see the instrumental tutor to discuss further.

To help with establishing a healthy practice routine, please see the guidelines below and remember that any practice will be beneficial to tackling that learning curve and making progress.

Beginners: 3-5 days per week – 10 to 15 minutes per day. Congratulate and ask them to 'show off' to you what they can do regularly. This will maintain interest and enthusiasm.

Intermediate: 5 days per week – 20 to 40 minutes to per day. Encourage your child to demonstrate both their technical work (scales etc.) as well as repertoire they are currently excited and interested in working on.

Advanced: 5-7 days per week – 30 to 60 minutes per day depending on goals they are wishing to achieve with their music, i.e., AMEB Music Exams, recital pieces or solos in ensemble repertoire.

HELPFUL HINT – To encourage more practice by your child, buy an **instrument stand** to prevent the constant routine of packing up the instrument. Often the biggest enemy to practice, and also risk of damaging delicate instrument parts, is the frequent dismantling and reassembling of the instrument. Stands can be purchased online or via music shops, please see the Instrumental Music Coordinator for more information and recommendations.

Performance Opportunities

The College aims to offer a variety of opportunities for students to perform on their instruments. This includes both College and community events throughout the year and parents/families will be given advance notice in order to make arrangements to attend. Extra rehearsals in the lead up to these events may require your child's attendance before/after school, and advance notice will also be given should this occur.

We look forward to a wonderful year of sharing music with your child. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,



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